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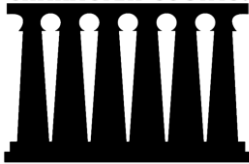
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## **DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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### ***News Release***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 29, 2012

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PARTNERS ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON**

**FREDERICK, MD** – With hurricane season beginning June 1, the Frederick County Division of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross – Frederick County Chapter encourage residents and businesses to review their preparedness plans. Frederick County can be affected by heavy rains and flooding even if a hurricane remains offshore.

The best time to prepare is well before something happens. As with any emergency, citizens should have a kit, a plan and know where to find local information.

1. **Make a kit:** Include a three-day supply of water for each individual in a household and ready-to-eat non-perishable foods. Don't forget a manual can opener, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries. The kit should also have a first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription medications and copies of important documents.
2. **Make a plan:** Identify two meeting places -- one near home and one outside the area in case it's not possible to return home. Make plans for pets. Select an out-of-area emergency contact person.
3. **Be informed:** Residents are strongly encouraged to register to receive emergency information from ALERT Frederick County at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT). Emergency messages are also broadcast on WFMD 930 AM, WFRE 99.9 FM, WAFY 103.1 FM, Frederick County Government cable channel 19, Frederick County Public Schools cable channel 18, municipal government cable channel 99 (where available), and NBC 25 WHAG TV.

Specific steps can be taken to prepare for a hurricane or tropical storm:

If a WATCH is issued:

- Listen to weather updates.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, hanging plants, bicycles, toys and garden tools. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Close all windows and doors.

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- Cover windows with storm shutters or pre-cut plywood.
- Fill vehicle gas tanks.

If a WARNING is issued:

- Listen to the advice of local officials.
- Secure a home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve. Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- Do not use open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.

For more information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and hazards, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY).

Additionally, the Department of Emergency Preparedness can be contacted at 301-600-1746 or [EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

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